

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface comprising a plurality of interconnected matter surface areas and a plurality of apertures between the matter surface areas, the apertures aggregately comprising a greater ~~portion~~ portion of the planar surface's total area than the matter surface areas aggregately comprise; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height protruding from only ~~one~~ a first side of said matter surface areas, each of the protrusions having a base of a first width and an apex of a second width that is less than the first width, the apexes of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, ~~portions~~ a second side of the matter surface areas ~~corresponding to~~ opposite the first side of the matter surface areas having portions opposite the protrusions' bases ~~being that are un-~~ apertured on another side of the matter surface areas opposite the protrusions;

whereby, when the spacer is in place between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material, liquid and air may pass through channels formed between the protrusions, and not through the protrusions, to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material, and

wherein the thickness of the planar surfaces and the ratio of the matter surface areas to the aperture areas are of sizes so as to prevent trapping water and moisture in horizontal spaces defined by the matter surface areas when the air gap spacer is mounted between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material.

2. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions depend from said planar surface at least approximately perpendicularly.
3. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of like dimensions, terminating to form said protrusion plane.
4. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusion plane is at least substantially parallel to said planar surface.
5. ((Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises apertures and matter surface area of similar magnitudes.
6. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said apertured surface comprises greater apertures than matter surface areas.

7. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the apertures of said planar surface are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire spacer.

8. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are of a repeating pattern over at least substantially the entire surface of the spacer.

9. (Previously Presented) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the apertures are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: diamond, circular, square, rectangular, oval and quadrilateral.

10. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein said protrusions are selected from a shape of the group consisting of: pyramidal, flat topped pyramidal, conical, flat topped conical, rectangular based pyramid, cuboid and rectangular block.

11. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made by at least one of: injection moulding, pouring moulding, extrusion or stamping.

12. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer comprising: an apertured sheet material of at least substantially uniform thickness, the sheet material being adapted for placement between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding

material so as to provide an air gap there between, wherein the spacer material includes passages therein, so as to permit air circulation and liquid drainage among said apertures.

13. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said sheet material is of a lattice structure forming diamond shaped apertures, said passages running through the lattice structure.

14. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein said passages are disposed at intersections formed by said spacer material.

15. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

16. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the air gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed there through for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

17. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

18. (Original) An air gap spacer according to claim 1, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

19. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer is adapted to be secured to the surface of the building being constructed by way of securing means selected from the group consisting of tacks, nails and screws.

20. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the air gap spacer comprises a plurality of mounting holes therein, whereby securing means may be placed there through for attaching the spacer to the surface of the building being constructed.

21. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the exterior cladding material is one of: siding, shingles, brick and clapboard.

22. (Withdrawn) An air gap spacer according to claim 12, wherein the spacer is made of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, metal, aluminum, and pressed wood particle product.

23. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface for attachment to an exterior sheathing or wrap over the outer wall surface prior to the exterior cladding material being attached, the planar surface being comprised of a plurality of matter surface areas interconnected in a lattice-like pattern and a plurality of apertures between the matter surface areas; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height protruding from only one side of said matter surface areas, the apices of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane for abutment to the outer wall surface of the building;

whereby, when the spacer is in place, liquid and air may pass through channels formed between the protrusions to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material; and

wherein said protrusions have a shape selected from the group consisting of: pyramidal, flat topped pyramidal, conical, flat topped conical, rectangular based pyramid, cuboid and rectangular block ratio, and

wherein the thickness of the planar surfaces and the ratio of the matter surface areas to the aperture areas are of sizes so as to prevent trapping water and moisture in horizontal spaces defined by the matter surface areas when the air gap spacer is mounted between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material.

24. (Currently Amended) An air gap spacer for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface comprising a plurality of matter surface areas interconnected in a lattice-like pattern and a plurality of apertures between the matter surface areas, the apertures aggregately comprising a greater portion of the planar surface's total area than the matter surface areas aggregately comprise; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height protruding from only one side of said matter surface areas, each of the protrusions having a base of a first width and an apex of a second width that is less than the first width, the apexes of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, portions of a second side of the matter surface areas corresponding to opposite the first side of the matter surface areas having portions opposite the protrusions' bases being that are un-apertured on another side of the matter surface areas opposite the protrusions;

whereby, when the spacer is in place between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material, liquid and air may pass through channels formed between the protrusions, and not through the protrusions, to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material, and

wherein the thickness of the planar surfaces and the ratio of the matter surface areas to the aperture areas are of sizes so as to prevent trapping water and moisture in horizontal spaces defined by the matter surface areas when the air gap spacer is mounted between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material.

25. (New) A method for providing spacing between an outer wall surface of a building under construction and an exterior cladding material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an air gap spacer comprising:

a planar surface comprising a plurality of interconnected matter surface areas and a plurality of apertures between the matter surface areas, the apertures aggregately comprising a greater portion of the planar surface's total area than the matter surface areas aggregately comprise; and

a plurality of mutually spaced protrusions of substantially uniform height protruding from only a first side of said matter surface areas, each of the protrusions having a base of a first width and an apex of a second width that is less than the first width, the apexes of at least some of said protrusions forming a protrusion plane, a second side of the matter surface areas opposite the first side of the matter surface areas having portions opposite the protrusions' bases that are un-apertured; and

placing the air gap spacer between the outer wall surface of the building and the exterior cladding material, whereby liquid and air may pass through channels formed



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between the protrusions, and not through the protrusions, to facilitate air circulation in, and liquid drainage from, the spacing between the outer wall surface and the exterior cladding material.